

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.     **(Currently Amended)**     A door checker for an automobile, comprising: a case secured to one of a body of an automobile and a door pivotally supported on said body for turning movement;

        a check plate which movably extends through said case to be connected to the other of said body and said door and which is provided in its opposite sides with ball guide grooves extending in a lengthwise direction;

        a pair of ball holders accommodated in said case and capable of advancing and retracting toward and away from the opposite sides of said check plate, wherein a projection is integrally formed on a side of each ball holder and resiliently abuts against an inner side of the case, the projection being disposed at a center of and extending away from the side of the ball holder in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the check plate;

        a pair of balls which are retained in hemispherical ball housings formed in said ball holders and which are rollably engaged in said ball guide grooves; and

        a check springs for biasing said ball holders toward said check plate,

        wherein a recess is formed in an inner surface of each ball housing and retains a grease within the recess, the recess also accommodates dust therein.

2.     **(Original)**     A door checker for an automobile according to claim 1, wherein said recess has at least portions extending in the lengthwise direction of said ball guide groove through the center of the inner surface of said ball housing.

3.     **(Original)**     A door checker for an automobile according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said recess is formed so that its outer end is closed by contact portions between said ball and an inner peripheral surface of said ball housing.
  
4.     **(Previously Presented)**     A door checker for an automobile according to claim 1, wherein said recess is closed from said ball guide groove by a corresponding ball of said pair of balls being placed in contact with an inner peripheral surface of said ball housing and said recess has a groove that extends between and connects two portions on an outer peripheral surface of the corresponding ball which have different distances from the ball guide groove.
  
5.     **(Previously Presented)**     A door checker for an automobile according to claim 4, wherein said recess further has an annular portion defined near the ball guide groove.
  
6.     **(Previously Presented)**     A door checker for an automobile according to claim 5, wherein said recess further has a circular recess portion located at a center of the inner peripheral surface of the ball housing and connected to said annular portion via said groove.
  
7.     **(New)** A door checker for an automobile, comprising: a case secured to one of a body of an automobile and a door pivotally supported on said body for turning movement;

a check plate which movably extends through said case to be connected to the other of said body and said door and which is provided in its opposite sides with ball guide grooves extending in a lengthwise direction;

a pair of ball holders accommodated in said case and capable of advancing and retracting toward and away from the opposite sides of said check plate;

a pair of balls which are retained in hemispherical ball housings formed in said ball holders and which are rollably engaged in said ball guide grooves; and

check springs for biasing said ball holders toward said check plate, respectively;

wherein a recess is formed in an inner surface of each ball housing and retains a grease within the recess, the recess also accommodates dust therein, wherein said recess has at least portions extending in the lengthwise direction of said ball guide groove through the center of the inner surface of said ball housing, and wherein said recess is formed so that its outer end is closed along a whole periphery thereof by contact portions between said ball and an inner peripheral surface of said ball housing.

8. **(New)** A door checker for an automobile according to claim 7, wherein said recess is closed from said ball guide groove by a corresponding ball of said pair of balls being placed in contact with an inner peripheral surface of said ball housing and said recess has a groove that extends between and connects two portions on an outer peripheral surface of the corresponding ball which have different distances from the ball guide groove.

9. **(New)** A door checker for an automobile according to claim 8, wherein said recess further has an annular portion defined near the ball guide groove.

10. **(New)** A door checker for an automobile according to claim 9, wherein said recess further has a circular recess portion located at a center of the inner peripheral surface of the ball housing and connected to said annular portion via said groove.

11. **(New)** A door checker for an automobile, comprising: a case secured to one of a body of an automobile and a door pivotally supported on said body for turning movement;

a check plate which movably extends through said case to be connected to the other of said body and said door and which is provided in its opposite sides with ball guide grooves extending in a lengthwise direction;

a pair of ball holders accommodated in said case and capable of advancing and retracting toward and away from the opposite sides of said check plate;

a pair of balls which are retained in hemispherical ball housings formed in said ball holders and which are rollably engaged in said ball guide grooves; and

check springs for biasing said ball holders toward said check plate, respectively;

wherein a recess is formed in a hemispherical inner surface of each ball housing so as to be depressed inwardly from the inner surface and retains a grease within the recess, the recess also accommodates dust therein, and wherein said recess is formed so that its outer end is closed along a whole periphery thereof by contact portions between said ball and an inner peripheral surface of said ball housing.

12. **(New)** A door checker for an automobile according to claim 11, wherein said recess has at least portions extending in the lengthwise direction of said ball guide groove through the center of the inner surface of said ball housing.

13. **(New)** A door checker for an automobile according to claim 11, wherein said recess is closed from said ball guide groove by a corresponding ball of said pair of balls being placed in contact with an inner peripheral surface of said ball housing and said recess has a groove that extends between and connects two portions on an outer peripheral surface of the corresponding ball which have different distances from the ball guide groove.

14. **(New)** A door checker for an automobile according to claim 13, wherein said recess further has an annular portion defined near the ball guide groove.

15. **(New)** A door checker for an automobile according to claim 14, wherein said recess further has a circular recess portion located at a center of the inner peripheral surface of the ball housing and connected to said annular portion via said groove.